



LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
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FOR RELEASE: September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
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### **Luis “Mario” Herrera – End of Watch**

Before I begin, the Lincoln Police Department would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the members the numerous police and fire departments who helped escort Mario home back to Lincoln yesterday. We are especially grateful to the Omaha Police Department for their care and compassion towards the Herrera family. We also thank everyone who lined the overpasses and streets to pay their respects to Mario as he returned home to Lincoln for the last time. It was an honor to witness the humbling outpouring of support from this community who guided us home.

Yesterday, in the early morning hours of September 7<sup>th</sup>, Lincoln lost one of its most dedicated and selfless police officers. For 23 years, Investigator Mario Herrera protected Lincoln residents, served countless victims, and helped solve many of the most serious crimes. Mario was an immensely talented, highly decorated investigator responsible for clearing numerous robberies, burglaries, assaults, and homicides. He was extremely personable, empathetic, kind, and above all, compassionate—Mario had particular concern for extremely vulnerable victims, including missing persons and victims of sexual assaults.

“Devastated” does not begin to describe the gaping hole left in our hearts, our police department, and our community. Mario was not only an exceptional police officer—he was an exceptional human being and pillar of the Lincoln community. A devoted husband and father, Mario leaves behind his beloved wife and four children. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends. Mario was also active in his church, living out his faith. He coached youth sports and mentored younger officers. Mario served in the Army and worked for the Nebraska State Patrol before becoming a Lincoln Police officer in 1997. Mario spent his entire life giving to others, and his perpetual self-sacrifice only magnifies our loss and sorrow.

Investigator Herrera is the 7<sup>th</sup> Lincoln police officer killed in the line of duty and the first since Officer George Welter died in a vehicle collision in 1968. Investigator Herrera is also the fourth Lincoln police officer to be killed by gunfire. Detective Paul Whitehead was killed in 1967, Detective Soukup was killed in 1966, and Patrolman Marshall was killed in 1932—all from gunfire. Lincoln police officers have draped their badges to honor Mario’s sacrifice and memory.

We have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from both Lincoln residents and the surrounding communities. Your blood donations, financial contributions, thoughts, and prayers embody Mario’s spirit of self-sacrifice and generosity. We continue to ask everyone to respect the privacy of his family. Funeral arrangements are being planned and, as you can imagine, there are many decisions that need to be made. For those wishing to assist the family we continue to ask for blood donations to aid others in our community. To anyone desiring to provide other donations there is a go-fund-me account set up for the family as well as an account at Liberty First Credit Union. Donations can also be dropped off at the main station of the Police Department.

We, as an agency and profession, appreciate the recognition provided to Mario. Per order of Governor Ricketts, flags will fly half-mast until sundown on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, Mayor, for the



proclamation for a period of mourning. And, to the public, thank you on behalf of the family and friends of Mario and all Lincoln Police employees.

Luis “Mario” Herrera – End of Watch; September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

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